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IN THE CLAIMS:

¹~~1.~~ (Currently Amended) A process for preparing isocyanates comprising preparing a phosgene [have] having a content of bromine or iodine or a mixture thereof in molecular or bound form of less than 50 ppm reacting an amine or a mixture of two or more amines with the phosgene [containing less than 50 ppm of bromine or iodine or their mixtures in molecular or bound form] and thereby forming an isocyanate.

²~~2.~~ (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim ~~1~~, wherein the phosgene contains less than 25 ppm of bromine or iodine or mixtures thereof in molecular or bound form.

³~~3.~~ (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim ~~1~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

⁴~~4.~~ (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim ~~1~~, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

⁵~~5.~~ (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim ~~1~~, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

⁶~~6.~~ (Previously Amended) A process as claimed in Claim ~~1~~, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

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7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

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~~10.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ²~~2~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in a solvent.

⁸
~~11.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ²~~2~~, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

⁹
~~12.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ³~~3~~, wherein the amine used is an amine of the diphenylmethanediamine series or a mixture thereof.

¹⁰
~~13.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ²~~2~~, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

¹¹
~~14.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ³~~3~~, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

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¹²
~~15.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ⁴~~4~~, wherein the process is carried out in one or two stages.

¹³
~~16.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ²~~2~~, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

¹⁴
~~17.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ³~~3~~, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric or atmospheric pressure.

¹⁵
~~18.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ⁴~~4~~, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

¹⁶
~~19.~~ (Original) A process as claimed in Claim ⁵~~5~~, wherein the reaction is carried out under super-atmospheric pressure or atmospheric pressure.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

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23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)